COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS WITH AMENDEMNTS

Claims 1-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method for editing performance data using a computer system having a display, said method comprising the steps of:

controlling the computer system to display, on a screen of the display, a plurality of layers on a screen of the displaythat are visually arranged in parallel in a predetermined display order, said plurality of layers include graphical representations of note information based on performance data, wherein each of said plurality of layers is assigned to a different type of articulation to be added to a musical tone to be generated based on the performance data;

providing an instruction to rearrange the predetermined display order of the plurality of layers displayed on the screen of the display change a display location of at least one of the layers;

controlling the computer system to rearrange the predetermined display order of the plurality of layers displayed on the screen of the display change the display location of the at least one of the layers in response to the instruction; and

graphically attaching an execution icon at a prescribed position onto one of said plurality of layers that is displayed on the screen of the display, wherein said attached icon is a graphical icon and represents execution-related data for adding, to the musical tone to be generated, a predetermined type of articulation to which said one of said plurality of layers is assigned,

wherein said step of attaching the execution icon causes the corresponding execution-related data to be incorporated into the performance data being edited.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4 wherein the plurality of layers are vertically arranged on the screen, while the instruction designates ~~a change of the display location of the layer~~ a rearrangement of the predetermined display order within vertical arrangement of the layers.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4 wherein the instruction to ~~change the display location of the layer~~ rearrange the predetermined display order is given by a command which is selected by a user of the computer system on the screen of the display.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4 wherein the ~~display location of the layer is changed by~~ predetermined display order is rearranged by effecting drag-and-drop operations with a mouse on a prescribed portion of the layer.

Claims 8-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): A performance data editing apparatus containing a display comprising:

a first controller for displaying, on a screen of the display, a plurality of layers ~~on a screen of the display~~ that are visually arranged in parallel in a predetermined display order, said plurality of layers include graphical representations of note information based on performance data, wherein each of said plurality of layers is assigned to a different type of articulation to be added to a musical tone to be generated based on the performance data;

an instructor for instructing at least one of the layers to rearrange the predetermined display order of the plurality of layers displayed on the screen of the display ~~change its display location on the screen~~;

a second controller for rearranging the predetermined display order of the plurality of layers displayed on the screen of the display ~~changing the display location of the at least one of the layers being instructed~~;

a graphical icon controller for graphically attaching an execution icon at a prescribed position onto one of said plurality of layers that is displayed on the screen of the display, wherein said attached icon is a graphical icon and represents execution-related data for adding, to the musical tone to be generated, a predetermined type of articulation to which said one of said plurality of layers is assigned; and

a third controller for causing the corresponding execution-related data to be incorporated into the performance data being edited.

Claims 17-21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (currently amended): A machine-readable media containing a computer program for editing performance data using a computer system having a display, said method comprising the steps of:

controlling the computer system to display, on a screen of the display, a plurality of layers on a screen of the display that are visually arranged in parallel in a predetermined display order, said plurality of layers include graphical representations of note information based on performance data, wherein each of said plurality of layers is assigned to a different type of articulation to be added to a musical tone to be generated based on the performance data;

providing an instruction to rearrange the predetermined display order of the plurality of layers displayed on the screen of the display change a display location of at least one of the layers;

controlling the computer system to rearrange the predetermined display order of the plurality of layers displayed on the screen of the display change the display location of the at least one of the layers in response to the instruction; and

graphically attaching an execution icon at a prescribed position onto one of said plurality of layers that is displayed on the screen of the display, wherein said attached icon is a graphical icon and represents execution-related data for adding, to the musical tone to be generated, a predetermined type of articulation to which said one of said plurality of layers is assigned,

wherein said step of attaching the execution icon causes the corresponding execution-related data to be incorporated into the performance data being edited.

Claims 23-25 (canceled)

la-986204

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein one or plural execution icons are displayed in the layer in a direction from the left to the right on the display screen in accordance with progress of the performance data.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method according to claim 4,

wherein each layer is displayed as an execution icon layer corresponding to the execution-related data, and

wherein the execution icon layer contains at least one of a tempo icon layer, a dynamics icon layer, a joint icon layer, a modulation icon layer, an accent icon layer, an attack icon layer, and a release icon layer.

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (previously presented): The performance data editing method according to claim 4, wherein when the execution icon attached to the layer is edited, edited content is reflected onto the performance data.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A performance data editing apparatus containing a display comprising:

means for displaying, on a screen of the display, a plurality of layers ~~on a screen of the display~~ that are visually arranged in parallel in a predetermined display order, said plurality of layers include graphical representations of note information based on performance data, wherein each of said plurality of layers is assigned to a different type of articulation to be added to a musical tone to be generated based on the performance data;

means for instructing at least one of the layers to rearrange the predetermined display order of the plurality of layers displayed on the screen of the display ~~change its display location on the screen~~;

means for rearranging the predetermined display order of the plurality of layers displayed on the screen of the display ~~changing the display location of the at least one of the layers being instructed~~;

means for graphically attaching an execution icon at a prescribed position onto one of said plurality of layers that is displayed on the screen of the display, wherein said attached icon is a graphical icon and represents execution-related data for adding, to the musical tone to be generated, a predetermined type of articulation to which said one of said plurality of layers is assigned; and

means for causing the corresponding execution-related data to be incorporated into the performance data being edited.